

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/468,470

Examiner

Akiba K. Robinson-Boyce

Applicant(s)

TAYLOR, GERALD L.

Art Unit

3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communications filed 10/31/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13 and 14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 13 and 14 are allowed.
2. Since allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant is encouraged to submit formal drawings in response to this Office Action. The early submission of formal drawings will permit the Office to review the drawings for acceptability and to resolve any informalities remaining therein before the application is passed to issue. This will avoid possible delays in the issue process.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. None of the prior art of record either individually or in combination teach the following:
 - creating a plurality of identification codes, each for one retrieved address of the eligible USPS postal facilities so that when the mailer uses an identification code to identify the eligible USPS postal facility where the mailer drops off that mail pieces for mailing, the local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said eligible USPS postal facility are used to check against each of the mailing addresses to determine whether said mailing address are available for DDU discounting.

The present invention discloses a process of creating a drop ship index file so as to allow a mailer to receive postal discounts for mailing at an eligible USPS postal facility a plurality of mail pieces to a plurality of mailing addresses, wherein the postal discounts are provided in accordance with USPS Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate or discounting for mailing Periodicals and Standard Mail at a plurality of eligible USPS postal facilities, wherein the drop ship index file contains a plurality of local AIP codes and carrier routes associated with each eligible USPS postal facility. The allowable

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feature of creating a plurality of identification codes, each for one retrieved address of the eligible USPS postal facilities so that when the mailer uses an identification code to identify the eligible USPS postal facility where the mailer drops off that mail pieces for mailing, the local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said eligible USPS postal facility are used to check against each of the mailing addresses to determine whether said mailing address are available for DDU discounting is not disclosed by any prior art reference. The closest prior art, Brust et al (US 5,673,193) shows a system and method for processing a mailing consisting of a plurality of identical printed items to be grouped into bundles having an identical general address. Information on postal zones and rates to a zip code for a bulk mailing center is accessed, so that postal rates for a particular bulk can be calculated. In Burst's invention, a mailer would have to deliver their mail to one of 21 BMC'S that are located in the United States. Thus, it is probable that the mailer would have to travel a great distance to deliver their mail to the closest BMC. The next closest prior art Manduley (US 5,079,714) discloses a system and process for improving mail deliverability by pre-processing and subjecting mail batches to one or more parameter tests involving addressing and content. However, Brust et al, and Manduley both fail to disclose the feature of creating a plurality of identification codes, each for one retrieved address of the eligible USPS postal facilities so that when the mailer uses an identification code to identify the eligible USPS postal facility where the mailer drops off that mail pieces for mailing, the local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said eligible USPS postal facility are used to check against each of the mailing addresses to determine whether said mailing address are available for DDU

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discounting. Because of this feature, the mailer would identify eligible DDU USPS postal facility where the mailer may drop off their mail for mailing. This postal facility would be much closer to the mailer than the closest BMC facility. Thus, the mailer would not have to travel as far to deposit their mail with the U.S. Postal Service. Hence, an advantage of Appellant's claimed invention is that a mailer would save time and money by delivering their mail to an eligible DDU. This distinct feature has been added to independent claim 13, and renders it and the claim that depend from it (claim 14), allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

4. The drawings were received on 1/18/06. These drawings are accepted by the examiner.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7238

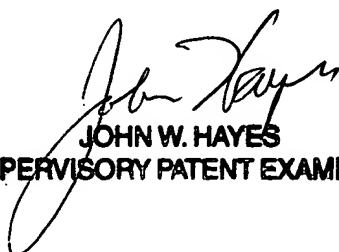
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[After final communications, labeled "Box AF"], 703-746-7239 [Official Communications], and 703-746-7150 [Informal/Draft Communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



A. R. B.
January 19, 2006



JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

REPLACEMENT SHEET

1/3

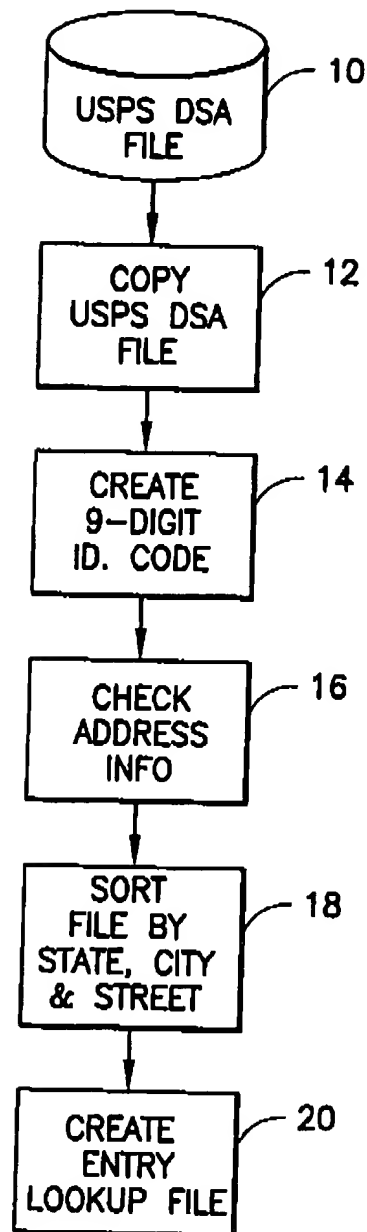


FIG. 1

REPLACEMENT SHEET

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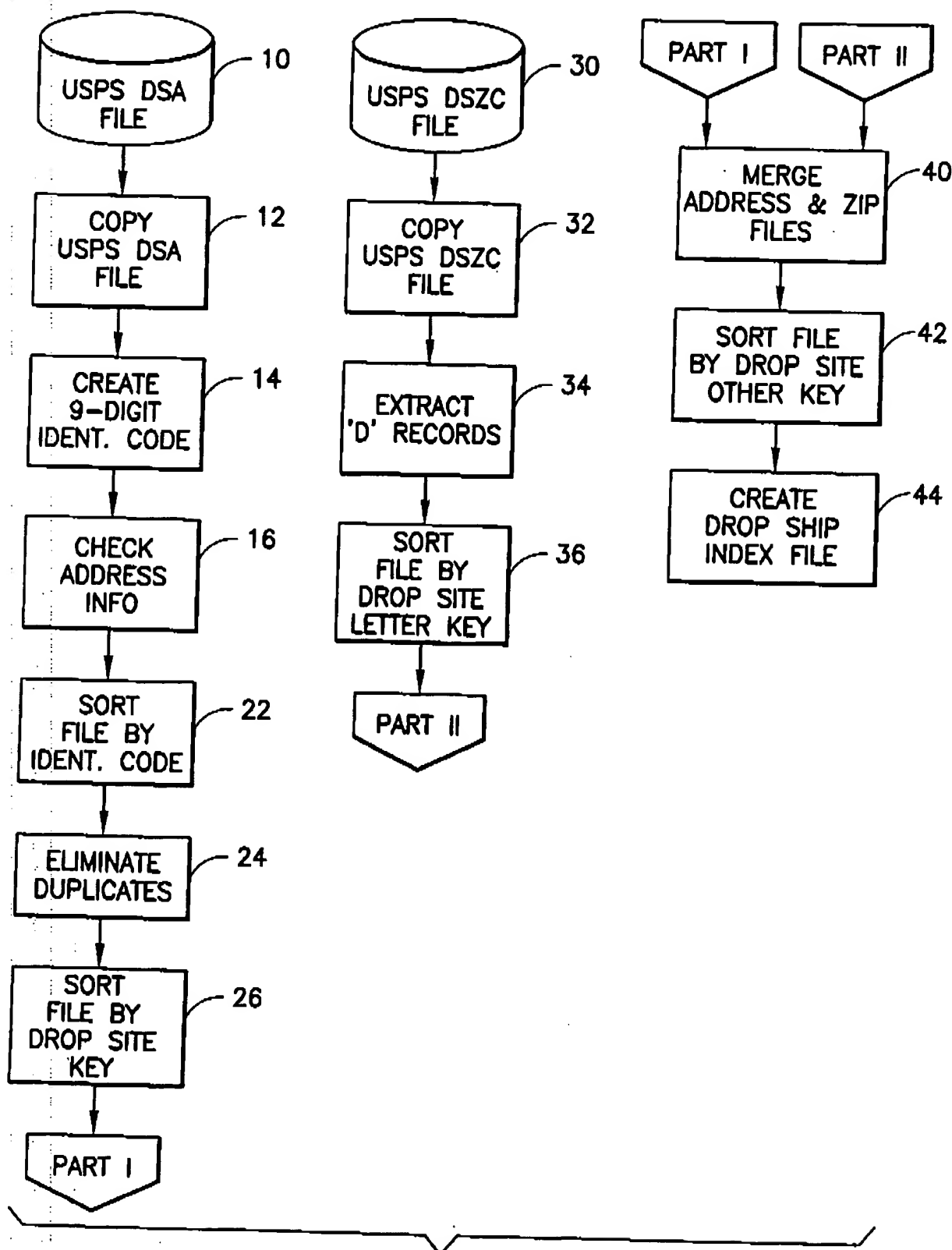


FIG. 2

REPLACEMENT SHEET

3/3

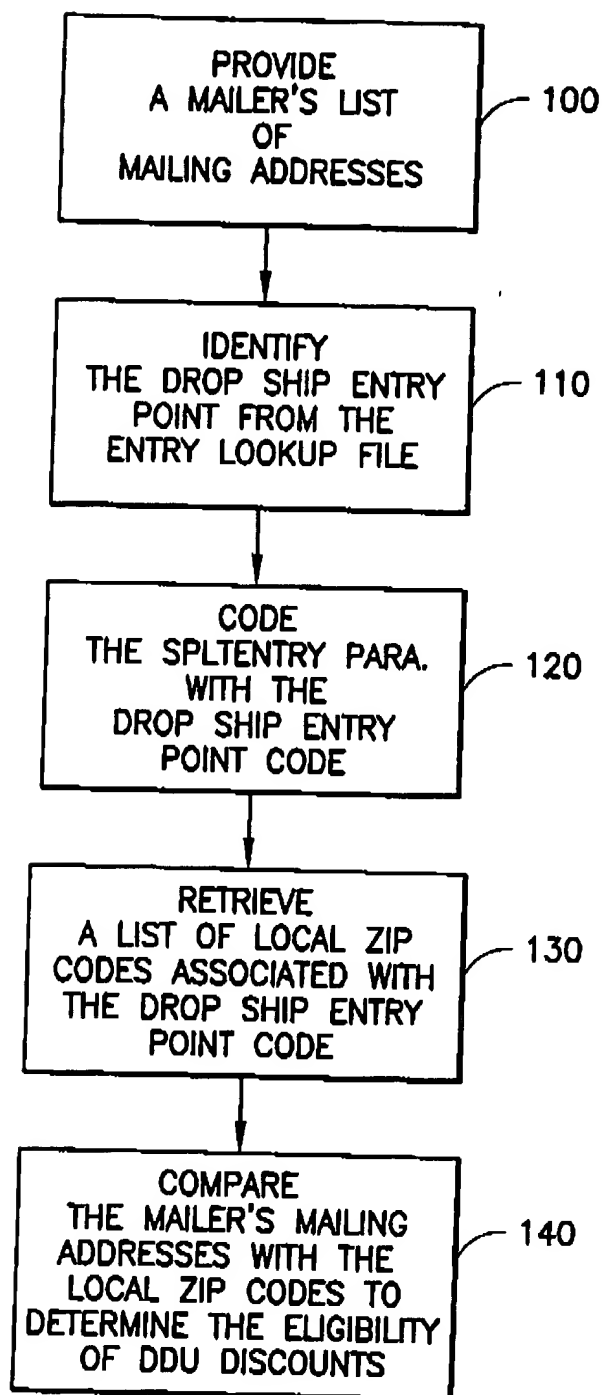


FIG.3